

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 04077 162008Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 161930Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9139

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4077

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM

SUBJECT: MINISTER ELI MATALON'S RESIGNATION AND REQUIREMENT
FOR EXTENDED MEDICAL CARE IN U.S.

REF: STATE 242422

1. I CALLED ON MINISTER MATALON MORNING OCTOBER 16 AT
LATTER'S REQUEST. (SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BEING REPORTED
SEPTEL.)

2. CONTRARY TO MEDICAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
DEPARTMENT IN REFTEL, MATALON ADVISED ME IN CONFIDENCE
THAT HIS RESIGNATION FROM CABINET FOR REASONS OF HEALTH
BEING ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 21. HIS AMERICAN DOCTORS TOLD HIM
HE WAS CLOSE TO DEATH ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS DURING HIS
RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON; HE UNDERSTANDS HE NOW HAS SIX MONTHS
TO TWO YEARS (PERHAPS THREE YEARS AT OUTSIDE) TO LIVE. ONE
LEG IS PARALYZED (APPARENTLY AS CONSEQUENCE OF A STROKE).
DOCTORS ALSO ADVISED THEY ARE UNABLE TO PINPOINT
SOURCE OF HIS INTERNAL BLEEDING AND CLOTTING. HE RETURNS
MIAMI FOR FURTHER MEDICAL TESTS BETWEEN OCTOBER 22-25.

3. MATALON'S HEART SPECIALISTS STATE THAT HE MUST LIVE
CLOSE TO A HEART CLINIC. MATALON IS PLANNING ON MIAMI,
FLORIDA AND WISHES MAKE MOVE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.
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PAGE 02 KINGST 04077 162008Z

RELEVANT TO FOREGOING, PRIME MINISTER WILL RETAIN MATALON AS

A CONSULTANT ON INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES
AND USE HIM FOR SPECIAL MISSIONS IN U.S. AND ELSEWHERE.
MATALON THUS ANTICIPATES TRAVELLING BETWEEN U.S. AND
JAMAICA QUITE FREQUENTLY, PERHAPS EVERY THREE OR FOUR WEEKS.
WE ASSUME HE WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD JAMAICAN DIPLOMATIC
PASSPORT. HE HAS A-2 VISA VALID UNTIL JUNE 9, 1976. MRS.
MATALON HOLDS SIMILAR DOCUMENTATION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: BECAUSE OF SENSITIVE POLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS, MATALON WISHES TO AVOID APPLICATION
FOR IMMIGRANT VISA OR ANY STATUS OTHER THAN PRESENT
VISA CATEGORY. HIS CONCERN IS VALID AND WE SHOULD
PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. I WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY
GRATEFUL IF SOMEONE IN YOUR OFFICE COULD CHECK WITH
VISA OFFICE AND MIAMI INS TO ASSURE MATALON AND HIS
WIFE WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY TAKING UP WHAT AMOUNTS
TO RESIDENCE IN FLORIDA FOR REMAINING MONTHS OR BRIEF
YEARS OF HIS LIFE. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST. MATALON
AND WIFE MAY TRANSFER TO FLORIDA IN VERY IMMEDIATE
FUTURE.
GERARD

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